



GHOSTRIDER GAZETTE

Golf Battery, 1-79 Field Artillery

Class 13-09, 06FEB09, Week 8



Dear Family Member,

Your Soldiers have successfully completed their eighth week of Basic Combat Training (BCT). This week was definitely a challenging week for your Soldiers. The Situational Training Exercise (STX) is basically a culminating event that allows Soldiers to use all of the skills they have been taught so far, as well as learn additional movement techniques, battle drills, and they will conduct a convoy live fire exercise to familiarize them with shooting from a moving vehicle. Monday the Soldiers received cultural awareness training (language, history, culture) from actual Iraqi National citizens who have been contracted to familiarize them with how to interact with civilians on the battlefield, and some of their customs and culture. One of the last major challenges your Soldiers face is the final Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and consisted of a test on the maximum number of repetitions completed for the push-up and sit-up event in 2 minutes, and a timed 2-mile run. The final test was given on Tuesday, 03 February and we had very good results. There were a few Soldiers who did not pass, however we will continue to test them with the possibility of up to three more opportunities to pass. We began this week with additional classes on entry control point/ traffic check point (ECP/ TCP) operations, and prepared for the upcoming situational training exercise (STX) by conducting pre-combat checks and inspections (PCCs/PCIs) on Wednesday. We ended this week by beginning our STX week, marching 10 kilometers out to and staying at the TTB (Tactical Training Base) called FOB (Forward Operating Base) Murphy from Thursday through Saturday. Thursday we conducted STX I with introductory classes and training with civilians on the battlefield for ECP (Entry Control Point) and TCP (Traffic Check Point) operations. Friday we conducted the Escalation of Force training at the EST 2000 (Engagement Skills Trainer) which placed Soldiers in a very realistic simulation that portrays several scenarios. The trainer uses an automated video system that teaches Soldiers how to react and what level of force to use when encountering both civilians and enemy personnel in an urban environment. Saturday we will focus on entering and clearing a building using the LCATS trainer (Laser Controlled Automated Targeting System). This system allows Soldiers to fire their rifles with blank ammunition and with a laser attached to the end of their weapon; this simulates the bullet striking a dummy target that has sensors on it, and if the target is hit, it will fall and provide feedback to the Soldier that he actually hit what he was shooting at. The Soldiers will also conduct training at three other stations, the first involving entering and clearing a building using a glass house (a building mock-up laid out with tape on the ground), the second involving classes on occupying an assembly area, perimeter security, a radio-communications class, and finally the third involving reaction to IED (improvised explosive devices) on a practice lane in which Soldiers learn to identify, report and react to IEDs.

The graduation letter and information packet has been sent out via U.S. Mail by self-addressed envelopes from your Soldiers. There is also a digital copy of packet included with this E-letter. The packet includes the graduation letter, area hotel/motel and transportation information, maps, a schedule of events, and a vehicle pass. Family day activities will begin Wednesday, 18 February 2009 at 09:30 a.m. in the Battery area. Graduation is Thursday, 19 February at 1:00 p.m. at McMahon Auditorium. I continue to encourage you to write to your Soldiers and they are still receiving great letters and mail; a little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way! Letters are fine, but do not send packages that contain contraband (magazines, food, electronics, candy, soda, tobacco, pornography etc.).
 Again their address is: (Line 1) **Soldiers' name** (Line 2) **Golf Battery, 1-79 FA, PLT #__** (Line 3) **5001 North Rothwell Rd** (Line 4) **Fort Sill, OK 73503**. Any mail sent should go out by Monday, 09FEB09; any mail received after will likely be returned to the sender. If you have questions pertaining to an emergency concerning your Soldier,

Ghostrider Soldier's In Action!



2LT Rhoads and SFC Thomas begin the time push-ups for the APFT



SSG Deck grades a Soldier's push-up form and counts repetitions.



Soldiers are instructed on escalation of force (EOF) simulator.



A screen shot of a scenario the Soldiers practice EOF.

Additional Photos of Ghostrider Soldier's In Action!

Final Army Physical Fitness Test



Escalation of Force Simulator

